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# Witness: Reporter blew CIA cover

**By Walter Wright**  
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Ronald Rewald, afraid that television reporter Barbara Tanabe was about to blow his cover in Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong, turned first to God and then to the CIA for help, a witness testified yesterday as Rewald launched his defense to federal fraud, tax and perjury charges.

It was July 29, 1983, and Tanabe was asking company attorney Dan Newland, who were these people named Bishop, Baldwin and Dillingham?

Rewald's security man, a private investigator and former Honolulu policeman named Calvin Gunderson, was at Rewald's side.

Rewald didn't want to talk with Tanabe, so he told Gunderson, "Let's go for a walk," Gunderson recalled.

They headed from the Grosvenor Center offices toward Fort Street Mall, to the Cathedral of our Lady of Peace. "He said he was going to go in and pray, and he'd call me later and find out how (the interview) went," Gunderson said.

Rewald, finished praying, called Gunderson, who told him the interview was "going very badly."

Rewald "told me, 'That does it, it looks like the cover's going to be blown.' " And he gave Gunderson two letters. One letter asked a company secretary to issue big checks to Rewald friends Killian Bode and Jack Kindschi, the former CIA office chief in Hawaii. The other letter was to Rewald's wife, Nancy.

"Do me a favor," Gunderson testified Rewald said. "Get the family, tell my wife I'll be in deep cover for a couple of days and I'll get in touch with her."



An official of the old American Football League said Rewald appears in this Kansas City Chiefs publicity photo in a uniform which didn't match the one worn by the Chiefs.

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Then Rewald said he "was going to report to Rardin." Rardin was Jack Rardin, chief of the CIA's overt domestic office in Honolulu, a man with whom Rewald had had three taped conversations about arms deals and other CIA business, Gunderson said.

"His CIA cover was blown, he'd talked about it before, always curious about what's going to happen, how long it would last. He said, 'Secure the files. In the files is agents stationed all over in foreign countries and basically they could get killed' if the media published their names, Gunderson said.

When he met with Mrs. Rewald, Gunderson said, she said, "I know he's involved with the agency, but what's wrong?" Gunderson told her, and "she broke down and cried."

He said he took her to the bank, where it took about 25 minutes to come up with the \$25,000 she wanted to withdraw from her account, in cash, for travel expenses for herself and the five children.

The family got as far as San Francisco when they learned that Rewald had checked into a Waikiki hotel and slashed his wrists.

Gunderson was one of several defense witnesses who insisted yesterday that Ronald Rewald was a CIA agent, professional football player, water skier, airplane pilot and Marquette University student, all claims the prosecution discounted in the first eight weeks of Rewald's trial here.

Gunderson acknowledged he was still "loyal" to Rewald because Rewald had been "very generous" to him, giving him a \$16,000 Corvette, paying him \$48,000 a year plus, loaning his private investigation firm money and even opening a \$250,000 account for Gunderson at Bishop Baldwin.

The \$250,000 was supposed to pay for the Rewald family's safe return to Wisconsin in case anything happened to Rewald, Gunderson said.

One of the payments Gunderson said he received was in June 1983 for \$2,000 described in a

memo as intended to reimburse him "Re: Kapi Caminos — One week in Maui with all accommodations fully paid plus spending money."

F. Cappy Caminos is the state undersheriff, who two months later was ordering suspension of any privileges granted Rewald following his arrest on theft charges. Caminos could not be reached last night for comment.

Gunderson, who said he was first hired by Rewald to provide personal security for his teenage son, testified he believed Rewald was affiliated with the CIA.

He said he heard three tapes of Rewald discussing CIA-related business, including arms deals, with Rardin.

The defense called Al Ward, an official of the old American Football League, to verify that Rewald had signed contracts with the Cleveland Browns, Kansas City Chiefs and Baltimore Colts in 1965, 1966 and 1967 respectively.

But Ward said on cross-examination the records indicate Rewald was a free agent who didn't make it past the first day's practice in training camp with the Browns and the Chiefs, and didn't even show up at the Colts' camp.

And Ward said a publicity photo of Rewald with the Chiefs appeared to have been taken in a small high school or college stadium and in a uniform which didn't match the one worn by the Chiefs.

In fact, Ward said, the records indicate Rewald probably never put on pads with any of the teams because he didn't make it through the first warm-up sessions in gym shorts.

Ron Weix, Rewald's brother-in-law, said he invested \$10,000 of his own money in Rewald's Hawaii company because he believed Rewald's connection with the CIA made it a safe investment.

Weix said Rewald had told him in the 1960s he had worked for the CIA trying to gather information about funding of student groups at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The spying program was later "completely described" in newspaper articles in the mid-1970s, Weix said.

CIA officials say there is no record of Rewald's involvement with the CIA prior to 1978, when he provided backstop commercial cover for some CIA personnel.

Weix said Rewald indicated to him in 1982, with a nod, that his lavish Honolulu office — complete with a Nixon photo, fake Marquette diplomas, a plaque from a retired intelligence officers' group — was part of his CIA cover.

Weix said Rewald told him he was taking night courses at one time at Marquette University. Rewald says his bogus Marquette University degrees were part of his CIA cover.

Weix was hired by Rewald at \$48,000 a year to rebuild a ranch in Hawaii in 1982.